



Boulder Creek Falls

FEATURES

- 3.2 miles one way; 1,000 feet elevation change
- variety of native trees
- debris flows from Shasta Bally batholith
- suitable for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians



Boulder Creek Falls

TRAIL HEAD DIRECTIONS

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center drive seven miles west on Hwy 299. Turn left (south) on Carr Powerhouse Road. Continue past the powerhouse 2.7 miles on South Shore Drive to the trailhead on the right (south) side of the road. Limited parking is available across the road.

The same trailhead can also be approached from Kennedy Memorial Drive. From the dam, drive west 4.3 miles to Dry Creek Group Campground and turn left. Follow South Shore Drive 2.7 miles to the trailhead.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The first mile of the trail treks up a wide but exposed logging road through a thicket of white leaf manzanita, knobcone pines, redbuds, wild grape and poison oak. As you approach the creek this brush land transitions into a forest of ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and canyon live oaks. On sunny early spring or fall days in a clearing just before the first creek

crossing you may see thousands of ladybugs on the side of the trail.

The trail follows the creek for the next half-mile, eventually making four crossings. Along the creek bracken and sword ferns abound. Just past the third crossing on either side of the trail are several deteriorating foundations of a residence last occupied in the 1960s. A little farther the trail forks; take the right fork. You will come to a nice stand of big leaf maples as you approach the final crossing, where there is a sign marking the falls.

The short side trail to the falls can be misleading. Head for the steps on the left and follow them up the hill to the rocky vantage point where the main falls can be seen. The height of the falls facing you is 81 ft. with an additional 28 ft. of cataracts above.

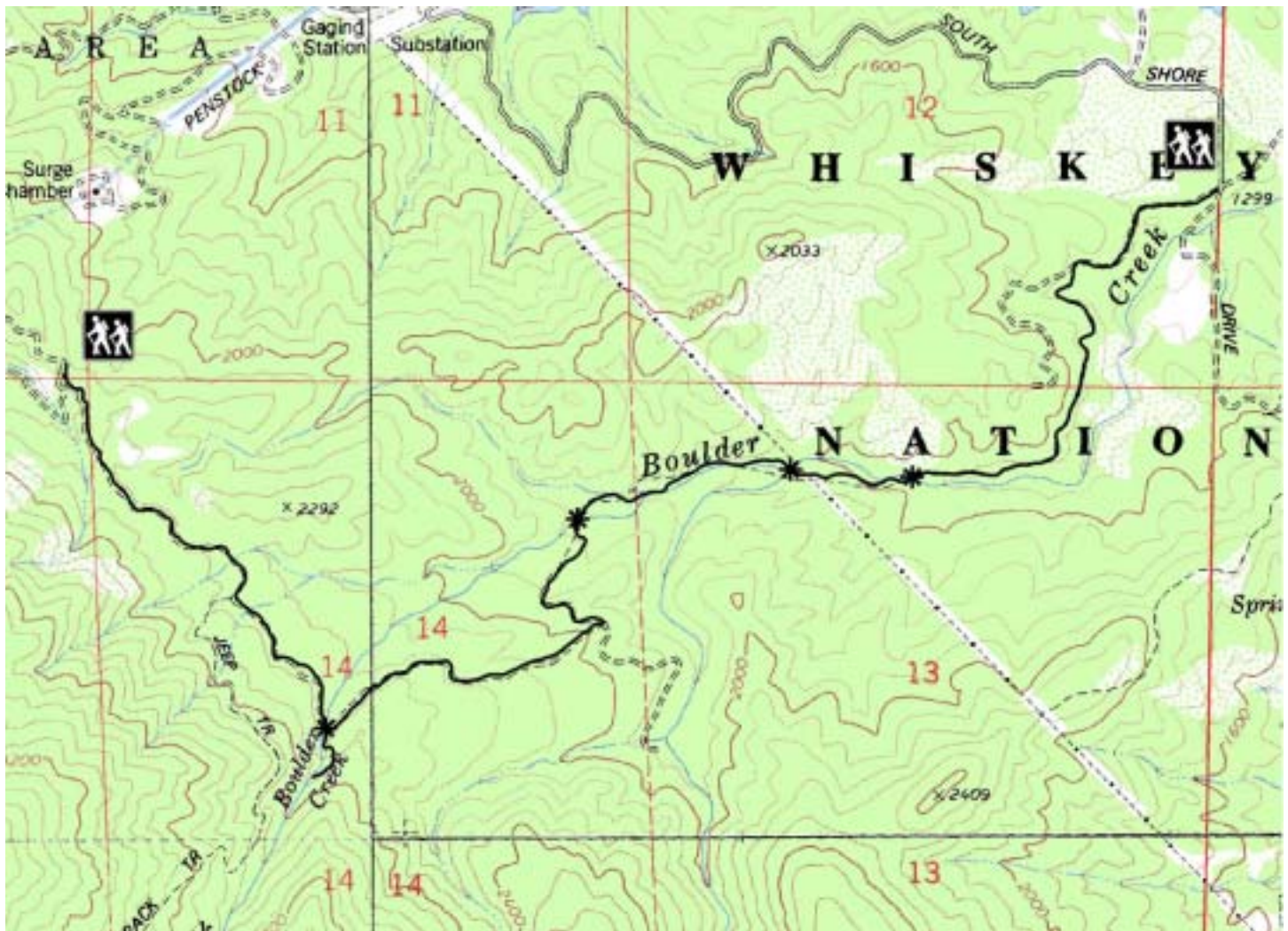


Lower Pool

The upper section of the trail is shaded by black oaks, Douglas firs, and knobcone pines. Other trees present in abundance are tan oaks, western dogwoods, and incense cedars.

The trail terminates at Mill Creek Road. Taking this road to the right will return you to the Carr powerhouse 1.7 miles distant or you may return back to your vehicle the way you came.

Wet and slippery stones make stream crossings extremely dangerous most of the year. Take only short steps from dry rock to dry rock. Never take long strides or leaps and never step on submerged rocks. It is advisable to find a shallow spot and wade across.



GEOLOGY

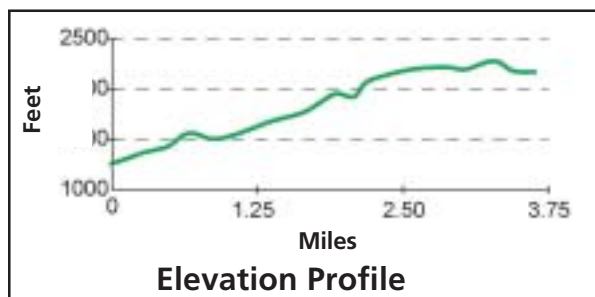
Along the trail Boulder Creek cuts through Copley greenstone, a Devonian metamorphic rock of near-shore oceanic origin formed about 400 million years ago. It ranges in color from dull orange and light brown (weathered) to dark blue-green.

Along the trail and in the creek bed you will see numerous areas where the greenstone is capped with granitic boulders.

These are debris flows from the Shasta

Bally batholith (Cretaceous, 133 million years) that from time to time have washed down the mountain into the creek valley. A particularly good exposure of this is a trailside outcrop several hundred yards above the falls.

Across the Mill Creek Road at the upper trailhead is a majestic ravine that follows the Hoadley fault through much of the park. The Hoadley is an inactive extensional fault, slightly older than the Shasta Bally batholith.



The following plants can be found along the trail.

Smaller plants:

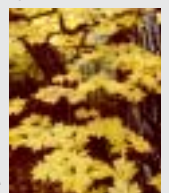
- White leaf manzanita
- California wild grape
- Bracken fern, sword fern
- St. John's wort
- Ceanothis
- California everlast
- Wild iris
- Wild ginger



Bracken fern

Trees:

- Knobcone pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine
- Douglas fir
- Black oak, tan oak, canyon live oak
- Big leaf maple
- Western dogwood
- Redbud
- Incense cedar



Big leaf maple

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